

We Claim:

1. A handheld camera, said camera comprising:
a sensor adapted to sense an image;
an input for receiving predetermined data representing a respective form of data manipulation; and,
a processing system, the processing system being adapted to:
obtain the image from the sensor; and,
manipulate the image in accordance with the predetermined data to thereby generate a manipulated image.
2. A handheld camera as claimed in claim 1, the input comprising a card reader, the predetermined data being stored on a card.
3. A handheld camera as claimed in claim 2, the predetermined data being a Vark script, the processing system being adapted to execute the Vark script to thereby manipulate the image.
4. A handheld camera as claimed in claim 2, the card reader comprising a card drive system for driving the card along a card path, and a card sensor positioned along the card path.
5. A handheld camera as claimed in claim 4, the predetermined data being disposed on a surface of the card, the input being adapted to read the predetermined data disposed on the card surface.
6. A handheld camera as claimed in claim 5, the card sensor extending across the width of the card path, the processing system being adapted to activate the card sensor and the drive system to thereby detect the predetermined data as the card moves with respect to the card sensor.
7. A handheld camera as claimed in claim 5, the card sensor comprising an illumination source and an optical sensor, the processing system being adapted to activate the illumination source and the optical sensor to thereby read the predetermined data.
8. A handheld camera as claimed in claim 7, the processing system being adapted to:

determine a card image in accordance with signals received from the card sensor;

selectively rotate the card image; and,

convert the card image to determine the predetermined data.

9. A handheld camera as claimed in claim 8, the processing system being adapted to selectively rotate the card image in accordance with skew of the card with respect to the card sensor.

10. A handheld camera as claimed in claim 8, the processing system being adapted to convert the card image by:

decoding the card image to determine a decoded card image data;

converting the decoded card image into byte data;

unscrambling the byte data to determine the predetermined data; and,

performing error detection.

11. A handheld camera as claimed in claim 4, the camera comprising a card insertion sensor, the processing system being responsive to the card insertion sensor to activate the card drive system.

12. A handheld camera as claimed in claim 4, the camera comprising an ejection input, the processing system being adapted to activate the card drive system to thereby eject the card in response to activation of the ejection input.

13. A handheld camera as claimed in claim 1, said sensor being adapted to generate a CCD Image, said processing system being adapted to convert the CCD image into at least one of an internal image and a print image.

14. A handheld camera as claimed in claim 13, said processing system being adapted to manipulate at least one of the CCD image, the internal image and the print image.

15. A handheld camera as claimed in claim 1, the camera comprising a control input for selecting camera parameters, the processing system being adapted to manipulate the image in accordance with the selected camera parameters.

16. A handheld camera as claimed in claim 15, the camera comprising at least one camera sensor, the processing system being adapted to manipulate the image in accordance with signals received from the camera sensor.

17. A handheld camera as claimed in claim 16, the camera sensor comprising a camera orientation sensor.

18. A handheld camera as claimed in claim 1, the camera further comprising a display adapted to display said manipulated image.

19. A handheld camera as claimed in claim 18, wherein said display device comprises a printer device adapted to print said manipulated image.

20. A method of operating a handheld camera, the method comprising:
causing a sensor to sense an image;
supplying predetermined data to an input of the camera; and,
causing a processing system to:
obtain the image from the sensor; and,
manipulate the image in accordance with the predetermined data to thereby generate a manipulated image.

21. A method as claimed in claim 20, the predetermined data being a Vark script, the method comprising executing the Vark script to thereby manipulate the image.

22. A method as claimed in claim 20, the input being a card reader comprising a card drive system for driving the card along a card path, and a card sensor extending across the width of the card path, the method comprising activating the card sensor and the drive system to thereby detect the predetermined data as the card moves with respect to the card sensor.

23. A method as claimed in claim 22, the card sensor comprising an illumination source and an optical sensor, the method comprising activating the illumination source and the optical sensor to thereby read the predetermined data.

24. A method as claimed in claim 22, the method comprising:

determining a card image in accordance with signals received from the card sensor;

selectively rotating the card image; and,

converting the card image to determine the predetermined data.

25. A method as claimed in claim 24, the method comprising selectively rotating the card image in accordance with skew of the card with respect to the card sensor.

26. A method as claimed in claim 24, the method of converting the card image comprising:

decoding the card image to determine a decoded card image data;

converting the decoded card image into byte data;

unscrambling the byte data to determine the predetermined data; and,

performing error detection.